



**BILLING CODE (3410-XV-P)**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Intent to Give Fourth Funding Priority to Loan Application Packages Received via an Intermediary Under the Certified Loan Application Packaging Process Within the Section 502 Direct Single Family Housing Program.

**AGENCY:** Rural Housing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** On May 19, 2016, the final rule for the certified loan application packaging process for the direct single family housing loan program became effective. See 80 FR 23673 (April 29, 2015) and 81 FR 8389 (February 19, 2016). The Administrator has the ability to temporarily reclassify applications received through the certified loan application packaging process as fourth funding priority when funds are insufficient to serve all program-eligible applicants, when determined appropriate. See 7 CFR 3550.55(c)(5).

In accordance with this regulatory allowance, the Administrator will grant fourth funding priority to loan application packages received via an Agency-approved intermediary when funds are insufficient to serve all program-eligible applicants. This reclassification will remain in effect until further notice via Federal Register notice. This reclassification does not apply to certified packaging bodies working without an intermediary.

**DATES:** This funding priority reclassification for loan application packages received via an Agency-approved intermediary is effective on [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE **FEDERAL REGISTER**].

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tammy Repine, Finance and Loan Analyst, Single Family Housing Direct Loan Division, USDA Rural Development, 3625 93rd Avenue SW., Olympia, Washington 98512, Telephone: 360-753-7677. Email: [tammy.repine@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:tammy.repine@wdc.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This action is deemed appropriate since the activities performed by the Agency-approved intermediaries (e.g. quality assurance reviews on packaged loan applications; recruitment of certified packaging bodies; and supplemental training, technical assistance, and support to certified packaging bodies) enhance the work and goals of the Agency and benefit the low- and very low-income people who wish to achieve homeownership in rural areas by increasing awareness of the

Agency's housing program, increasing specialized support available to complete the application for assistance, and improving the quality of loan application packages.

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(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW 4  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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Dated: September 15, 2016

Tony Hernandez  
Administrator  
Rural Housing Service

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